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## **Bishop Ford Freeway (I-94) Lanes Reduced Tomorrow**

*Drivers should prepare for longer travel times*

CHICAGO – With most patching and resurfacing complete, the schedule is now set for longer-term lane closures along both directions of the Bishop Ford Freeway (I-94) between the Stony Island Feeder Ramps and 159<sup>th</sup> Street, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced today.

Beginning tomorrow, drivers can expect lane closures lasting from 40 to 120 days for bridge work and center median construction. The \$27.5 million rehabilitation effort is one of nearly 250 “shovel-ready” construction projects in Illinois funded by the Obama Administration’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as the Stimulus Plan.

Weather permitting, here’s what drivers can expect:

- Inbound Bishop Ford (westbound I-94)
  - By Friday-morning rush hour (August 7), traffic from 159<sup>th</sup> Street to Dolton Avenue will be reduced to two lanes through November.
  - By the following Thursday (August 13<sup>th</sup>), the lane closure will extend from Dolton Avenue to a half-mile north of 130<sup>th</sup> Street. This two-lane configuration will remain in place through September.
- Outbound Bishop Ford (eastbound I-94)
  - By Thursday (August 13<sup>th</sup>), traffic from a half-mile north of 130<sup>th</sup> Street to 159<sup>th</sup> Street will be down to two lanes. The section from 130<sup>th</sup> Street to Dolton Avenue will reopen to three lanes by the end of September. The two-lane configuration from Dolton Avenue to 159<sup>th</sup> Street will remain in place through November.

Additional nighttime and weekend lane closures—with some single-lane configurations—are anticipated to complete the project. Work on the 103<sup>rd</sup> Street/Stony Island ramps will continue.

Heavy congestion should be expected at all times. Drivers are urged to consider alternate routes and public transportation. All work and related closures are weather dependent.

For project information and work zone updates, please visit the Bishop Ford Freeway web site at <http://www.dot.il.gov/BishopFord/default.html>